

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Office Action dated December 5, 2003. Claims 22-31 are pending in this application. Applicants have amended Claim 22 to more clearly point out the present inventive concept. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Claims 22-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hudetz et al.* in view of *Epstein*. This rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to the amended claims.

Applicants' present inventive concept, as defined by the amended claims, is directed toward a system that allows a scanner to be distributed to various user locations on a network. The scanner has a unique scanner ID associated therewith such that when a bar code or machine readable code is scanned, the unique scanner ID can be combined with the bar code or machine readable code and then utilized for two purposes. The first purpose is for facilitating a connection with the remote location on the network. The second purpose is to provide a verification between what was scanned and the scanning device via the unique scanner ID. Thus, the bar code or machine readable code is utilized to provide the routing function and, upon sending this information to the desired location, then the bar code and the unique scanning code are compared to each other in order to provide a verification of the transaction prior to connecting the user location to the remote location for receiving content therefrom. The completion of a connection is noted as being the sending of information back from the remote location on the network.

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The *Hudetz* reference is a reference that provides a system that allows a user node to utilize a bar code which is uniquely associated with the product for the purpose of connecting to a location on the web. However, the Examiner has noted correctly that *Hudetz* lacks any disclosure of the unique scanning code being associated with a routing packet and the use of that information for verification. The Examiner has utilized the *Epstein* reference to cure this deficiency. However, Applicants note that the *Epstein* system discloses only that a scanner ID could be combined with an image that is scanned. (Col. 4, lines 26-33.) The purpose for this system is to provide a digital signature that can be combined with an image for authentication purposes. However, it is not the image that is utilized for the authentication but, rather, it is what is appended to the image that is used for authentication. Therefore, it is not the scanned image such as the bar code in Applicants' description, that is utilized for the verification step. Rather, it is what is appended to the image. Therefore, Applicants believe that the use of an appended signature ID for authentication does not anticipate Applicants' present inventive concept, where it is a combination of both the unique scanner ID and the actual scanned image that are required for the authentication process. *Epstein* does not utilize the image content for the purpose of verification. This is what is scanned and not the ID. Therefore, Applicants believe that neither *Hudetz* or *Epstein*, taken singularly or in combination, anticipate or obviate Applicants' inventive concept, as defined by the claims and, therefore, respectfully requests the withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection with respect to Claims 22-31.

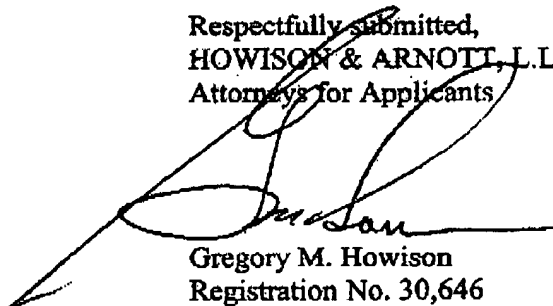
Claims 22-31 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims of U. S. Patent No. 6,377,986. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.32(c) a terminal disclaimer is hereby submitted in order to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a non-statutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application.

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Applicants have now made an earnest attempt in order to place this case in condition for allowance. For the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of the claims as amended. Please charge any additional fees or deficiencies in fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-0780/PHLY-24,583 of HOWISON & ARNOTT, L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,
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